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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please find accompanying this response proposed amendments of Figs. 10 and 11, wherein changes are indicated in red, and a Letter to the Draftsman.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the indicated paragraph of the specification with the replacement paragraph presented below. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked version of said indicated paragraph with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

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Page 1: 1st full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

There has been known an input apparatus for game systems shown in Figs. 10 and 11. This input apparatus 1 is used to detect player's stamping actions, which has a configuration in which an inner frame 3 having a panel sustaining plane 3a is disposed on the inner circumference of an outer frame 2 formed into an approximate square. A cable switch 5 is arranged by way of a support plate 4 on the panel sustaining plane 3a. A switch bracket 6 is arranged above the cable switch 5 and an acrylic-material-made panel 7 is placed on the upper surface of the switch bracket 6. The cable switch 5 is placed on each side of the panel 7.

2nd full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A2
The cable switch 5, which has a surface coated with rubber, has inner contacts that connect with each other and outputs a predetermined detection signal, when a load is applied to the coated rubber. The switch bracket 6 has a metal-made bracket body 6a attached displasably up and down against the inner frame 3 and a dumper 6b made to contact the panel 7. The panel 7 is supported at corner supporting members placed at the four corners (not shown) and supported displaceably up and down in contact with the switch bracket 6. The switch bracket 6 is arranged so that it faces the central portion in the longitudinal direction of the cable switch 5, and the width of the switch bracket is determined to a length corresponding to 1/3 to 1/2 of the entire length of the cable switch 5. Thus, when a player stamps the panel 7, its load intensively concentrates at the central portion of the cable switch 5 through the switch bracket 6. This enables the cable switch 5 to swell in sensitivity, so that a stamping action can steadily be detected even when the stamping load applied to the panel 7 is relatively light.

Page 2: 1st full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A3
An object of the present invention is to provide an input apparatus used by a game system, where the configuration of the input apparatus is simplified by omitting switch brackets.

3rd full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

pu
According to the invention, an input apparatus for game systems comprises an operation member; a supporting device for supporting the operation member in a predetermined direction; and a detection unit capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in load in the predetermined direction in relation to the operation member. The detection unit has a sensing element and an elastic-material-made coating member not only coating the sensing element but also functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to the operation member to the sensing element. The coating member also functions as the supporting member by contacting the operation member.

Page 3: 1st full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

As
In another embodiment, the coating member has protrusions for limiting a position to which the load toward the sensing element is transmitted into a certain range.

3rd full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

Al
In yet another embodiment, the sensing element of the detection unit includes one pair of band-like electrode plates that contact or separate from each other according to the load, and the coating member includes protrusions for

A6 limiting a position to which the load toward the sensing element is transmitted into a certain range positionally shifted from both longitudinal ends of the electrode plates into a central side thereof.

5th full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A7 In still another embodiment, the protrusions are arranged on an outer surface of the coating member.

Page 4: 2nd full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A8 In another embodiment, the protrusion is arranged on an inner surface of the coating member. A load transmitted to the coating member is, therefore, intensively transmitted to a certain area of the sensing element by way of the protrusion.

3rd full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A9 In another embodiment, there is further provided a stopper for limiting a displacement in relation to the predetermined direction of the operation member into a certain range.

4th full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A10 In yet another embodiment, at least an outer surface portion of the operation member is formed into a panel-like shape, the detection unit is disposed to make contact with the outer surface portion of the operation member, and the stopper is located closer to a center of the operation member than that of the detection unit.

Pages 4 and 5, replace the paragraph bridging these pages with the following:

A11 In another embodiment, the stopper is adjoining the detection unit. As a result, the operation member, which comes into contact with the stopper, deflects at the contacted position serving as a support, wherein an amount of deflection of the operation member on the detection unit is limited to a minimum. Accordingly, an overloaded input to the detection unit can be avoided in a steady manner.

Page 5: 1st full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A12 In another embodiment, the foregoing object is solved by an input apparatus for game systems comprising an input apparatus for game systems comprising a base having a plurality of panel-attaching sections; a panel-like operation member arranged at each of the plurality of panel-attaching sections; a detection unit located between a panel-supporting surface formed on each of the plurality of panel-

A12
attaching sections and the operation member and capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in pushing load applied to the operation member. The detection unit has a sensing element and an elastic-material-made coating member not only coating the sensing element but also functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to the operation member to the sensing element. The coating member supports the operation member by contacting the operation member.

Pages 5 and 6, replace the paragraph bridging these pages with the following:

A-13
Thus, since the coating member arranged to the detection unit comes into contact with the operation member to support it, it is unnecessary to place, between the detection unit and the operation member, a member that corresponds to a conventional switch bracket. Thus the input apparatus is simplified in construction, labor work for manufacture and maintenance is relieved, the reliability of the apparatus is improved, and manufacturing costs are reduced. Additionally, in this embodiment, the supporting direction of the operation member by the coating member includes a variety of directions, such as the vertical and horizontal directions. In other words, it is enough that the coating member comes into contact with the operation member and is capable to receive a load applied in a predetermined direction to the operation member. The coating member may be

A13
fixedly in contact with the operation member. Alternatively, the coating member may be made to contact the operation member only when a load exceeding a predetermined value is applied to the operation member. In the latter, there may additionally be provided an auxiliary supporting device to support the operation member displaceably in the predetermined direction when both the coating and operation members are not in contact.

Page 6: 1st full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A14
The detection unit may comprise a plurality of detection units arranged at each panel-attaching section such that the operation member is supported at a plurality of points around an outer circumference thereof, and a stopper for limiting an amount of pushing operation toward the operation member is arranged at inside of each detection unit.

3rd full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

A15
The operation member may be a foot panel on which a player is able to stamp. Accordingly, there can be provided a foot switch having various advantages; player's stamping actions are detectable, the apparatus is simplified in construction, manufacturing and maintenance are easier, the reliability is higher, and manufacturing costs are reduced.

Page 8: 1st full paragraph, is amended as indicated below:

11/6
Figs. 1 and 2 show the configuration of a foot switch 24. The foot switch 24 is arranged to detect a player's stamping action. Through the base 21, approximately square panel-attaching sections 26 surrounded by an outer frame 25 are formed, and in the inside of each panel-attaching section 26, an approximate square inner frame 27 is displaced so as to surround the sections 26. The upper surface of the inner frame 27 is formed into a panel-supporting surface 27a that is lower in height than that of the outer frame 25. A sustaining plate 28 is attached on the overall panel-supporting surface 27a. Both the side edges of the sustaining plate 28 are folded upward. Moreover, at the four corners of the inner frame 27, corner plates 29 are located. The foregoing outer frame 25, inner frame 25, sustaining plate 28 and corner plates 29 are manufactured by sheet metal processing. Both the sustaining plate 28 and the corner plates 29 are integrated through the sheet metal processing. In contrast, the sustaining plate 28 and corner plates 29 may be formed into individual members separated from each other.
